

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

DOUBLE PATENTING

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejections claims 1, 12, 22 and 26 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,748,161. In view of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 2-11, 13-21 and 23-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

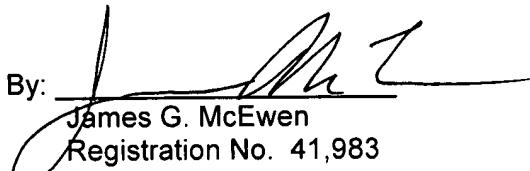
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

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By: 
James G. McEwen
Registration No. 41,983

1400 Eye St., NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510